

through uncompromising resistance to commonsense voter protections, will they side with Republican legislatures across the country that are restricting the voting rights in a way that hurts African Americans, Latinos, and younger and poorer Americans? The choice is theirs.

Two final points on this. No. 1, Donald Trump spread the “big lie.” We all know it was a big lie that there was massive fraud in the elections. Instead of resisting that lie—so harmful to our democracy because when people don’t have faith in the electoral process, it withers faith in our very democracy—so many Republicans in State legislatures and here in the Senate, unfortunately, are spreading that lie.

Second, what has been the tradition of America? It has been to improve the right to vote. At the time of the Constitution, in many States, you had to be a White male Protestant property owner to vote. We have improved on that. We have improved on that beginning in many different ways through the years. What the Republican legislatures are taking is a giant setback—a giant step back in the progress we have made to making this a more perfect union.

Will the Republican Senate, in the Rules Committee tomorrow and later on the floor of the Senate when they bring the bill forward, participate in improving on democracy or in helping, aiding, and abetting the big lie and the giant step backward?

Finally, on State and local aid, today the Treasury Department launched a \$350 billion program to deliver aid to State and local governments—funding that Democrats in Congress provided through the American Rescue Plan. After fighting this pandemic on the frontlines, State and local governments in New York and across the country needed help, and they needed it quickly to keep frontline workers on the job and prevent brutal service cuts. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan and the Treasury Department’s announcement this morning, we can finally say that help is on the way to State and local governments.

Eligible State, territorial, city, county, and Tribal governments will be able to access funding directly from the Treasury Department in the coming days. State and local governments now need to file applications with Treasury. Once they are processed, money will begin flowing. Let me say that again. State, local, and Tribal governments should prepare to file applications with the Treasury Department for assistance, and I am told the assistance will be quickly forthcoming.

And, State and local government, it is not only available, it is flexible. The Biden administration deserves credit for providing clear guidance in broad categories for spending the money, letting States make their own decisions about how to allocate funds to recover from the pandemic and address immediate needs. Whether it is to support

public health systems, small businesses, necessary infrastructure, hard-hit industries like tourism, or premium pay for essential workers, States can use the funding we passed in the American Rescue Plan to help their constituents and their economy recover in a variety of ways.

The Treasury Department’s announcement today begins the process of delivering the resources our States and municipalities need to prevent layoffs, keep essential services running, and boost Main Street businesses from one end of the country to the other.

I was proud to successfully push for robust State and local funding in the American Rescue Plan, and I will continue to work with the Biden administration as this funding is distributed.

I yield the floor.

No, I don’t yield the floor. I finished my speech, but I have another activity or two to do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 108.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 109.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 109, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 110.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.